

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 28, 2004. Claims 1-50 were pending in that application. Claims 1-8, 26, 28 and 29 were rejected. Claims 19-25 and 46-50 were allowed. In addition, claims 9-18, 27 & 30-45 were objected to. With the present amendment, claims 1-8, 26, 28 and 29 are canceled. In addition, claims 9, 27, 30, 31 and 40 are amended.

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-8, 26, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). With the present amendment, these claims are canceled.

All remaining pending claims were either indicated as being in allowable condition or were indicated as being allowable if amended to independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that all amendments made herewith are in accordance with the Examiner's indications of allowable subject matter.

The elements of former claims 1 and 8 have been incorporated into claim 9, which is now in independent form. Claims 10-25 were indicated as allowable. The elements of former claim 26 have been incorporated into claim 27 which is now in independent form. The elements of claims 26, 28 and 29 have now been incorporated into claim 30 which is now in independent form. The elements of former claim 26 have been incorporated into claim 31 which is now in independent form. Claims 32-39 were indicated as being allowable in their present form. The elements of former claim 26 have been incorporated into claim 40, which is now in independent form. Claims 41-50 were indicated as allowable in their present form.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in compliance with the Examiner's indications of allowable subject matter. Therefore, allowance of all pending claims, namely, 9-25, 27 and 30-50, is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: Christopher L. Holt
Christopher L. Holt, Reg. No. 45,844
Suite 1600 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222
Fax: (612) 334-3312

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